



Pilot Grants Available for Climate and Health Research

The Climate and Health Actionable Research and Translation (CHART) Center (NIH 1P20ES036110-01) is pleased to announce the 2024-2025 Pilot Project Program in Climate and Health. CHART will make available a total of \$60,000 this year, with the aim of funding multiple grants of up to \$20,000 total costs.

The Pilot Project Program aims to build research capacity by providing funding for innovative pilot proposals that intend to generate new knowledge about the health risks associated with climate change in urban areas, particularly those related to heat exposure, and to translate this knowledge into action through equitable partnerships that enhance health. It is designed to support the generation of new data, the testing of novel methods, and the establishment of new partnerships needed to develop larger external grant proposals. Prioritization will be given to early-stage investigators and those from low- or middle-income countries, minority-serving institutions, and historically underrepresented institutions in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding seeking to extend their research program into the field of climate and health.

The central goal of CHART is to build the capacity of investigators to successfully compete for National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)-funded R-level research awards. It is important for pilot applicants to consider the [research priorities of NIEHS](#) in their pilot project plans as well as alignment with CHART goals.

The Pilot Project Program will advance the activities of the [CHART Community Engagement Core](#) by earmarking at least one award per year for a community-engaged research project.

Application Guidelines:

Eligibility to Apply:

- CHART pilot awards are open to all investigators working in climate and health inside the US and in other countries. Applications must be focused on the role of the environment in human health and disease and align with the [mission of NIEHS](#) and the aims of CHART.
- Pilot project funds cannot be used to supplement research that has already been funded, regardless of the source.

Recommended Guidelines for [CHART Community-Engaged Research Projects:](#)

- Applications for community-engaged research projects designed to address environmental health concerns are encouraged.
- Applicants planning a community-engaged pilot project are encouraged to consult with the CHART Community Engagement Core prior to submitting an application.



- Community members/partners are expected to participate meaningfully in the development of the research questions and research design, as well as study implementation (e.g., data collection and development of deliverables). It is expected that pilot project resources will be shared with community members/partners (e.g., compensating partner's time).
- Community-engaged projects should carefully consider the scope of the project, including time and budget for project and partnership coordination.
- Community partners and researchers are encouraged to sign a memorandum of understanding. A template can be provided by the Community Engagement Core.

Projects proposing work in locations outside of the US or with investigators outside of the US are encouraged but may require additional approvals. These should be addressed in the application.

Letter of Intent due by March 11, 2024 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time to sophia.lamb@emory.edu.

The letter should include a descriptive title of the proposed research, overall aim/hypothesis of proposed research, and names of key personnel. Letters should not exceed one page. Applicants will be notified if they are selected to submit a full application within a week or so of applying.

Application due by April 15, 2024 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time to sophia.lamb@emory.edu.

1. Cover page (1 page), maximum length, 11 point Arial, 1-inch margins
 - Project Title (200 character limit)
 - Participants: List all project participants and their role(s) on the project.
 - Abstract: Include a paragraph summarizing the proposed research and its environmental health relevance.
 - Relevance to Communities: Describe immediate or future relevance to local communities, if applicable.
 - Climate and Health Advancement: Include explanation of how the research will advance climate and health research, general environmental health research, as applicable.
2. Science portion (4 page maximum length, 11 point Arial, 1-inch margins):
 - Should be written in the style of an NIH R grant, with specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach.
 - References, cover page, and future plans (see below) are not included in the page count.
3. Future plans for NIEHS-relevant grant submission (300 word limit): Describe how findings from the proposed research will help ground a future NIEHS grant application. Include an outline of the remaining experiments or data collection, if any, that will need to take place before an R-level application can be submitted, and a timeline for when the submission will occur. The content of this section will carry considerable weight on review.

4. NIH Biosketch of PI and all co-investigators
5. Full NIH budget & justification on PHS 398 form (pages fp4 and fp5; plus fp1 if including non-US entities)
 - Funding up to \$20,000 total costs may be requested. Indirect costs should not be included in the budget.
 - Budgets are not subject to the Emory University Collaboration policy, and F&A is not shared with the applicant institution.
 - Faculty salary support up to a maximum of 5% effort may be requested (combined effort of all participating faculty, NIH salary cap limit applies).
 - All applicable governmental and university (Emory and other participating institution) rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply to these funds. Costs subject to Emory University approval under NIH regulations, such as computers, general purpose equipment, office supplies, etc., may not be budgeted. Any travel must follow Emory University and other applicable institutional travel policies and procedures.
6. Foreign approval requirements: *For proposals of projects outside of the United States or with investigators outside of the United States.*
 - Foreign approval is a requirement of the NIH and grant applications must be approved by the NIH. You can find more information about applying to [NIH foreign grants here](#).
 - If you are applying for a project being done outside the United States or with an investigator outside of the United States, please include an extra page in your full application with the information below. This will not be counted towards the application page limit.
 - i. Brief description of research activities at foreign site(s):
 - ii. Complete institution address
 - iii. Email, and phone numbers of contact PI at foreign site(s):
 - iv. Amount of funds going to each foreign site:
 - v. Are human or animal subjects involved at the foreign site(s)?
 - vi. Institutional Federal Wide Assurance Number, IRB, or IEC approval for work performed at foreign site(s):
 - vii. Will the collaboration with investigators at the foreign site(s) result in co-authorship?
 - If there is human subjects or animal work at the site outside of the US, there will need to be approvals of IRB or IACUC from those sites provided. Since funds will be flowing there, you will also need to provide a budget and justification and statement of work.
- Email a compiled electronic version (PDF) of the application to: sophia.lamb@emory.edu
- Applications are scored based on the following criteria: Overall Impact (potential to support an NIEHS R-level grant application), Significance, Innovation, Approach, Investigator (for junior investigators, likelihood of independence), Alignment with CHART Goals, and Collaboration (with other investigators).
- Decisions made late April- early May 2024. Earliest funding is June 1, 2024, subject to



contracts. Funding will not extend beyond December 31, 2025.

Awardee Requirements:

- Pilot awards are expected to lead to R-level NIH funding, preferably with NIEHS. Awardees are required to keep the CHART Center informed of any funding related to the pilot project.
- Any resultant publications must cite funding from CHART (NIH grant 1P20ES036110-01). Awardees must follow NIH guidelines for depositing the manuscript in PubMed Central. An electronic copy of all publications should be provided to the CHART Research Capacity Building Core.
- Awardees automatically become members of the CHART Center and must agree to participate in CHART activities (Retreats, Seminars, Workshops, Stakeholder and External Advisory Board Meetings). As CHART Members, awardees are also invited to take advantage of CHART resources, including assistance in grant preparation and career development activities.
- Awardees must supply the following IRB information, if relevant, to the CHART Center Administrator for approval by NIEHS prior to release of funds: study team CITI certification, University IRB approval/exemption letter, Human Subjects Statement, and PHS Inclusion Form and any other NIH requirements, including access to data.
- Any project meeting the NIH definition of [Foreign Component](#) must be approved by NIH before work can begin.
- With guidance from CHART personnel, each awardee is required to draft a plain language summary of the proposed research and its EH relevance for the CHART website. These summaries should also describe how the project fits within the [NIEHS Translational Research Framework](#), including a description of the experimental setting of the research (e.g., in vivo, in vitro, populations, policy) and how the proposed research will help bridge the work towards impact on individuals, communities, and populations.
- Awardees must draft a Data Sharing Plan, where applicable.
- A midpoint project report is due 30 days following the midpoint of the grant funding period and a final project update within 30 days following the completion of the grant funding period. Additional follow-up reports and a presentation of pilot results will also be required.

Questions?

- More information about the Climate and Health Actionable Research and Translation (CHART) Center can be found here: <https://climate.emory.edu/chart/>
- For CHART Pilot Project Program questions, contact Sophia Lamb, sophia.lamb@emory.edu.